

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Baltimore County Jail

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

200 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☒ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Baltimore County

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Courts Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

BA-205

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The jail building itself is Italianate in design and of stone construction. The solid quality of the stone walls and the castellated appearance of the Italianate is particularly appropriate for a building with this particular function.

The jail has been built onto several times but the original portion seems to have been T-shaped in plan with separate divisions for the incarceration of prisoners and the quartering of a warden's family. The main block is five bays wide and two deep. It is two stories in height above a high basement. The placement of a three story projecting tower on the north facade accentuates the centralized plan. It conceals a centrally located chimney. The shallow hipped roof of the Italianate is present.

The fenestration is regular, tall 6/6 sash windows vent the outer bays of the basement and first story and smaller sash windows suggest the knee windows that are so often seen in the Renaissance villas of Palladio. The tower contains a Roman arch entrance that is reached by three steps. Above the door, within the arch, is a fanlight window protected by iron bars of an appropriate radial pattern. The third level of the tower is lighted by a triad of unusual 2/2 sash.

Tradition holds that the main block consisted of parlors on the first level on either side of the central hall plus rooms in a similar arrangement above that which were all used by the warden's family. The hall still contains a grand stairs with scrolled step-ends and older employees recall an elegant chandelier that has disappeared since the 1960's. Present use and conditions prevent detailed or complete examination of the building.

The south wing contains the iron cage cell blocks and the south entrance to the courtyard which contained the gallows. Like the "mundane" areas of so many other residences in Towson this portion of the building existed in a wing that was smaller in scale and quite deliberately concealed behind the main block. With the building facing North-Northeast, this activity could not be seen from Court House Square.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William Allen/ Dixon &amp; Dixon

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Towson was established as the seat of Baltimore County in 1853 two public buildings were then planned and begun the following year. Both the Court House and Jail were designed by architects Dixon and Dixon and built by William Allen. The Court House which is on the National Register of Historic Places was designed in the popular Greek Revival fashion, however, the architects showed great versatility in producing an Italianate design for the jail. In addition to being a good example of an important American style and being constructed of native stone the jail should be considered as an important visual link to Towson's early development. Only three standing buildings in Towson are known to be older than the Court House and Jail which are our chief visual documents of the courthouse town.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438


One of Baltimore County's records entitled Proceedings Relating to the New Court House and Jail by the Board (1854-1857) proves that the oldest part of the jail building was built at the same time as the court house by the same builder and that it was designed by the same architects. William H. Allen was the builder and the architects were Thomas and James Dixon (Dixon, Ballinie and Dixon received the first payment in June 29, 1854 but thereafter no mention of Ballinie is made).

An act of the Maryland Assembly in January, 1854 established Towson as the County seat and a board of building commissioners were appointed and a building committee created the "Commissioners for the Erection of the Public Buildings at Towson Town" included Joshua Hutchins, William Slater, Edward S. Myers, Charles Timanus, James D. Pope, and John L. Stansbury was "agent for the New Court House and Jail Fund."

The land for the two buildings had been deeded to the County Commissioners in August of 1854 by Dr. Grafton M. Bosley. It included four acres "for the purpose of having erected thereupon a Court House" plus two more acres adjacent to or near the first. The second parcel is presumably the land for the jail although the deed is not specific as it is for the Court House. Both parcels share a common starting point in their metes and bounds and were land that Bosley had acquired from his uncle Josiah Marsh in 1850. Marsh had owned it since the 1830's.


The architects were retained in June of 1854 and Frederick Zur Horst was paid \$9.00 in April for surveying the Court House lot and road "through L. Urbans garden." It is the Zur Horst map of the previous year indicating possible sites that is our earliest detailed map of Towson. Zur Horst's polesman was L. Vogle and his chain carriers were "Yost and Ridgely." Each of these assistants received \$1.00 for thier labor and the receipt indicates that Zur Horst was paid for producing a plat of both the Court House lot and the Jail site.

Dixon and Dixon also received payments for work done simultaneously on both buildings although in a few instances the receipts are specific as to which building their services were for. The first of these mentioning only the Jail was paid to Thomas Dixon on August 24 of 1854. On May 23, however, William H. Allen had been paid \$5,000 for "work done and materials furnished in the errection of the jail..."

1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Baltimore</b> TOWN <b>Towson</b> VICINITY <b>Dist. IX</b> STREET NO. <b>Baltimore nr. Washington Avenue</b> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>BA-<del>205</del> 205</b>	
		2. NAME <b>Baltimore County Jail</b> DATE OR PERIOD <b>about 1860</b> STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC</span>			
<p>A square looking two storied building with square stone cupola, of quarried stone. Eleven rooms, walls - two feet thick - - Land purchased from Grafton M. Bosley in 1854. Additions in 1880 and 1940. A new jail was built to the rear of the old one in 1957.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(second HABS report)          E. Frances Offutt          HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE          COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY          March 20, 1968</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered                      Interior                      Exterior			
<div style="position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; left: 10px;">  </div> </div>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER      DATE OF RECORD	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO APHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

<p>1. STATE Maryland  COUNTY Baltimore Co.  TOWN Towson VICINITY Dist. IX  STREET NO. Baltimore near Washington  Avenues  ORIGINAL OWNER  ORIGINAL USE Jail  PRESENT OWNER  PRESENT USE  WALL CONSTRUCTION quarried stone  NO. OF STORIES two</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY B.7 - 206 205</p>	
<p>2. NAME Baltimore Co. Jail  DATE OR PERIOD about 1860  STYLE  ARCHITECT  BUILDER</p>		<p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>	
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC</p> <p>A square looking tow storied building with square stone cupola, of quarried stone. Eleven rooms, walls two-feet thick. Land purchased from Grafton M. Bosley in 1854. Additions in 1880 and 1940. A new jail was built to the rear of the old jail in 1957.</p>			
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior</p>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> </div> </div>			
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>		<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  Baltimore Co. Hist. Soc.  Agriculture Bldg.  Texas, Md.    DATE OF RECORD March 20, 1968</p>	

TITLE SEARCH for BALTIMORE COUNTY JAIL  
Parcel 366

Same title as that of the Baltimore County Court House:

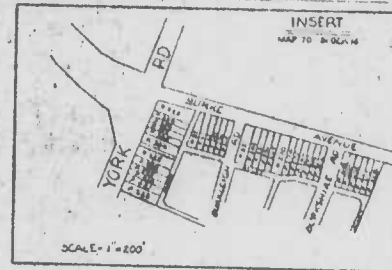
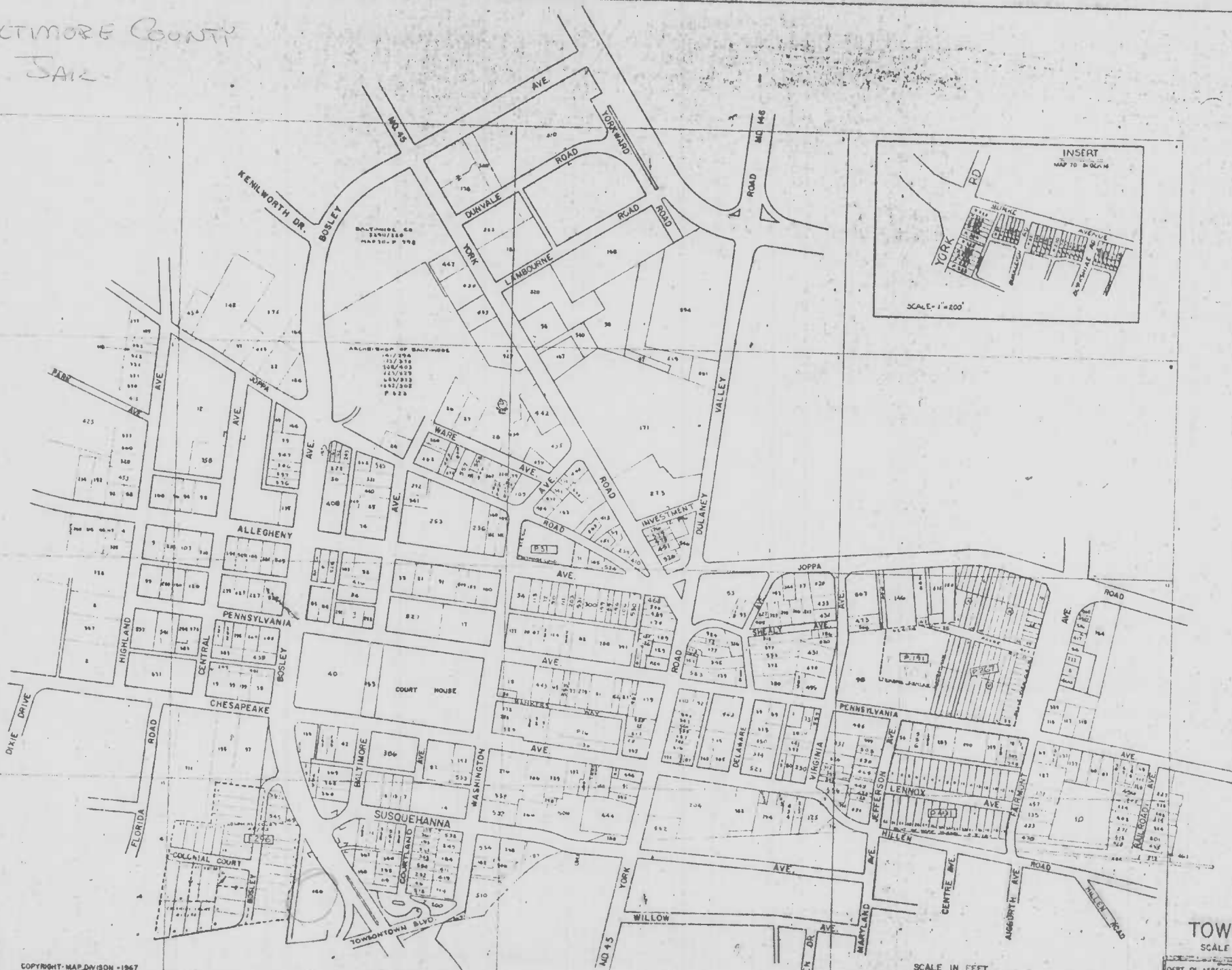
HMF 9/62 (1854) Grafton M. Bosley to Baltimore County.



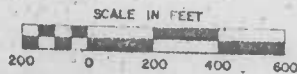
BALTIMORE COUNTY

SALE

BA-205



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MD DEPT OF ASSESS. & TAX



TOWSON  
SCALE 1" = 200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION  
This map was prepared by the Department of Assessments & Taxation, Maryland Department of General Services, and is subject to the provisions of the Maryland Tax Map Act of 1967. It is not to be used for any purpose other than for the assessment and taxation of real property.

BA-205  
Towsontown

# PLAN OF TOWSONTOWN.

TOWSONTOWN.

Real Estate Agent.

H. L. BOWEN,

Surveyors and Engineers.

WHEELER & McLANE.

Dr. Bosley

BALTIMORE

SUSQUEHANNA

CHESEAPEAKE

COURT  
HOUSE

PENNSYLVANIA

AVE

ALLEGHENY

AVE.

WASHINGTON

YORK

DELAWARE AVE.

VIRGINIA

JEFFERSON

Dr. Bosley

Miss Julia  
Barron

Estate of Mrs. E. Ware

Estate

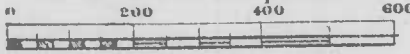
Chew

C. H.

EPSON  
M. E. CHURCH

Chew Estate

Scale 200. Feet per inch.



Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1877 by G. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



BA-205

BALTIMORE COUNTY  
JAIL

N.E. CORNER

W. NIELD  
7/79



BA- 205

BALTIMORE COUNTY  
JAIL

N.E. CORNER

W. NIELD  
7/79



BA-205

BALTIMORE COUNTY  
JAIL

E. FACADE

W. NIELD  
7/79